

The CMC Times



**Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
February 2024**

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Come join us on **Facebook** for more fun and information
[@CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla](https://www.facebook.com/CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla) or on **Twitter**
on [@cmcp parish](https://twitter.com/cmcp parish)

If any parishioners are unwell or due to go into hospital, please let us know so we can visit. Contact details to the left.

Print Deadline

The next edition of The CMC Times will be the **March 2024** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Thursday 15th February 2024.**

CHURCH FLOWERS



Would you like to have flowers in Church in memory of a loved one or to remember an anniversary, a wedding, a baptism, to celebrate a special event or for no particular reason.

The flowers can be an arrangement, fresh flowers in a vase or a pot plant.

It does not have to be expensive

For more information please contact
Meryl Foster (Castleknock) or
Margaret Tutty (Clonsilla)



Looking in the Mirror



Dear Friends,

I'm not sure if it is because I'm overly vain or it's a lack of self-confidence but I have never really enjoyed looking at my own image whether in a photograph or in a mirror. I particularly dislike those shaving mirrors that you quite often get in hotel rooms. They give an even greater magnitude and seem to take pleasure in zooming in on all your flaws. I think it would be fair to see that I'm not a big fan of looking at my own reflection.

It seems like just a blink of the eye since we were journeying through Advent as we move swiftly towards Ash Wednesday and the penitential season of Lent. If, like me, you're not a fan of your own reflection, Lent confronts us with a bit of a problem because Lent is all about reflecting. Rather than squirming at my flaws in the mirror, I'm faced with squirming at the flaws inside, those things I get wrong that I'd prefer none of you would see, never mind God.

Self-reflection is perhaps one of the biggest challenges of life. It can be easy to go one of two ways. We can easily turn a blind eye to things we know to be wrong or we can fail to see all the good things in our lives.

In the Bible the author of the book of James gives us an insight into self-reflection *"be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror"* (James 1: 22-23). The writer tells us that it isn't enough to examine ourselves in the face of God's word and simply go away and forget what we have seen. Instead he urges the reader to reflect and see what it truly means to be a Christian (v27), *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

I wonder how much those words of James reflect our Christian faith and the outreach of our church communities. James challenges us not just to talk a good game but to live out our faith in a way that

impacts upon the world around. A faith that reaches out to the most vulnerable in society, a faith that brings real transformation to those around us.

Individually, and as a church, I would like to encourage all of us to reflect this Lent upon what we see when we truly look at our worship, outreach and sharing of God's love. Has our faith become confined to the odd appearance in church, to speaking words or singing hymns with little conviction or are we truly searching ways to give, to serve others and to build God's Kingdom? There's also the danger that we become so caught up in church activity that we miss the opportunity to be God's people in our homes, work places and places of leisure.

Last year I invited you all to take part in a prayer challenge praying the same prayer throughout Lent. This year I'm encouraging you to take up a Challenge of Reflection, to simply take a few minutes each day to reflect upon your faith and where God may be leading you to grow, to change or if you've for some reason been holding back from giving of yourself.

There may be gifts or talents that you know could be used to serve God in our churches or community. You may feel challenged to examine your giving as our churches face increasing pressures to pay the bills as well as being missional. You might have heard the call for volunteers for our mission trip, for Play and Pray or any of our church outreaches but don't have the confidence to step forward. You might feel the need to grow in your faith by signing up for the Sycamore Course. Or you may find God calling you in another direction completely. I believe God has a role for all of us, but so often we can shy away from looking in the mirror, from taking time to reflect and examine what God really wants from us.

Perhaps this Lent is our time...

God bless,

Rev Colin

Services for February 2023

Sunday 4	St. Brigid / The Second Sunday before Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wednesday 7	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 11	The Sunday before Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer 3	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer 3	St Brigid's
Wednesday 14	Ash Wednesday	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
8.00 p.m.	Reflective Eucharist	St Mary's
Sunday 18	The First Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wednesday 21	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 25	The Second Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 28	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 6 March	The Third Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's

The Wednesday service of Holy Communion continues in Castleknock Parish Centre at 10.30 a.m.

Live streaming will continue from St. Brigid's Church on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

News

Thank you Cennis

On Sunday 17th December we said goodbye to Cennis Ikenna who had been with us on placement from the Theological Institute as a first year ordinand. Cennis was a real blessing to us during his eight week Sunday placement and we wish him our prayers and support as he continues his journey towards ordination. Rev Colin presented Cennis with a gift from the churches to help him with his studies.



Farewell to Fern

It was lovely to see so many in both our churches on the morning of Sunday 28th January as we said a sad farewell to Fern our organist. Fern chose the hymns for her final services and in Castleknock the choir sang the anthem "Be Still My Soul".

Fern has been a part of our church family for seven years and we will miss her greatly. Rev Colin and Fergus (representing the choir) paid tribute to how much Fern had contributed to our worship over the years. Fergus spoke of how Fern had got him involved in the choir and how the choir members responded to her enthusiasm. He spoke fondly of how Fern kept the choir together during the pandemic by having online choir practice. Rev Colin spoke of how talented Fern was as a musician highlighting the recorded service for RTE in 2023 as a showcase of her talents. He continued by saying that Fern had been a joy to work with and was always accommodating.

Fern was given a parting gift from both Clonsilla and then Castleknock parishioners. We wish Fern every blessing for the future.

Engagement News

Congratulations to Hannah & Aaron and Derek & Stephanie who got engaged over the Christmas period.

We wish both couples every blessing as they plan and prepare for their weddings in 2025.

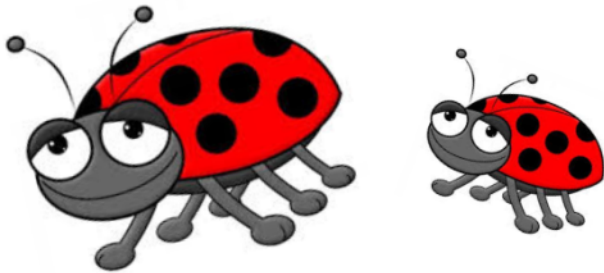
We pray that God will pour out His richest blessings on them in their married life together.





ARE HOSTING

A FAMILY FUN BEETLE DRIVE



DATE: FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 7PM
VENUE: CASTLEKNOCK PARISH
CENTRE



PROCEEDS IN AID
OF JACK & JILL
CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION

TICKETS: €5 PER PLAYER

CHILDREN UNDER 6 YRS
MUST HAVE AN ADULT
PLAYING WITH THEM
(THAT ADULT GOES FREE!)

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

PLEASE CONTACT LOUISE MCDONAGH (087 1317837)
OR ADA LAWSON (086 3410569)



DIOCESE OF DUBLIN

PARISHES OF CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA



DAFFODIL DAY

(IN AID OF IRISH CANCER SOCIETY)

FRIDAY MARCH 22ND 2023

COFFEE MORNING

IN THE

PARISH CENTRE, CASTLEKNOCK

9.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT

Lent 2024

Ash Wednesday

There will be two services to mark Ash Wednesday on 14th February. We will have our regular Holy Communion Service at 10.30 a.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre. In the evening there will be a reflective Eucharist in St Mary's, Clonsilla at 8.00 p.m. as we begin the journey through Lent.

Sycamore Course for Lent

Starting the 15th of February at 7.30 p.m. we will be running the Sycamore course, which is a series of videos and guided discussions designed to help us reflect on and develop our faith. Rev Natasha will be leading these sessions in Castleknock Parish Centre on a weekly basis until the course is completed.

Lent Soup and Service

Throughout Lent we will be holding a short service along with a soup and bread lunch in St Mary's Clonsilla. The services will be on Tuesday lunchtimes beginning on 20th February. All donations will go to the work of Habitat for Humanity.



Lent daily reflection 2024

SPEND A FEW MINUTES
IN SILENT REFLECTION

SOME IDEAS FOR REFLECTION:
AM I USING MY GIFTS?
DO I GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART?
IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO LEAVE
BEHIND?
AM I BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

Boys' Brigade News

Boys' Brigade had an exciting visit from Garda Mark who spoke to the boys about the role of a police officer and showed them some of the things he carries with him when on duty. It was especially inspiring for the boys to hear about this important role in the community from a past member of our own company!

The BB Team



Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip 2024

We were delighted to welcome Jenny Williams, the Head of Habitat for Humanity Ireland, to our two morning services on Sunday 28th January. During the services Jenny give us an insight into the mission and work of Habitat for Humanity both in Ireland and worldwide. During her talk she told us about projects in Cambodia, the emergency response in Ukraine and the work of Habitat Re:Stores here in Ireland.

Following the service in Castleknock, Jenny give a briefing of the proposed mission trip for a team of volunteers from our parishes.

The proposed project will be in Cambodia departing late September, date to be confirmed. We need between ten and twenty people to form a team with a decision having to be made in early February. Jenny explained what it meant to serve in a Habitat Team working in partnership and most importantly learning from your hosts. There are always a wide range of tasks of all abilities and no one is asked to do a job they are uncomfortable with.

If you would like to get involved in volunteering or you were unable to be there to hear Jenny and would like to learn more, please speak to Rev Colin. There will be a meeting for those who have signed up (and anyone still unsure) in February once we establish we have enough volunteers to form a team.

While a number of people will hopefully travel this is a mission for our whole church. Your prayers, support and encouragement will play a vital role so please get involved and find out more.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity Ireland visit <https://www.habitatireland.org/>



Organisations News

Castleknock National School

December was a busy time for CNS.

On the 15th December, 6th Class performed with Black Santa in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street and raised much needed funds for homeless charities. The families of CNS also collected care packages for the homeless and they were delivered to the Capuchin Day Centre just in time for Christmas. We had a visit from Santa on the last day of term in December. Each class had an opportunity to meet with Santa and his elves and put in their gift orders. Thanks to the PA for all of their festive efforts!



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Craft Corner

Our Craft Corner Team is busy planning crafts for the coming months. You don't have to be a 'crafter' to enjoy the group, as there are plenty of willing hands to help each other. We meet in Castleknock Parish Centre monthly from 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon. Our February get together will be on Monday 26th and in March we meet on 25th. If you're working on a project, please bring it along with you. Looking forward to enjoying a cuppa with you all!



Youth Group

For our January Youth Group our young people had great fun making and decorating pancakes will all sorts of goodies as Rev Natasha prepared them for the coming of Lent.



Youth Group meets again on Sunday 18th February at 6pm in Castleknock Parish Centre. Youth Group is open to anyone of secondary school age.



Bowls Club

We continue to enjoy our club nights on Wednesday evenings (and occasional Fridays) when we have a regular attendance of members.



We had a fun night Christmas competition in mid December followed by a very enjoyable supper.

Association competitions started in November with our eight person team playing in the Rohu Cup (league) with mixed results so far, our ladies were narrowly defeated in the Hope Cup and the men's team beat Tallaght in Miller Trophy and play Whitechurch in next round in mid February.

New members are always welcome, please contact the Parish Office for details.

Gordon Hill

Upcoming Events / News

CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE
MAIN STREET, CASTLEKNOCK
3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 2PM-3.30PM



A PLACE TO GATHER AND FEEL WELCOMED
FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Living Room

The Living Room is our monthly drop-in outreach that was launched on Thursday 18th January when a group of people, some who knew each other and some who didn't, gathered in the Maharry Room to chat, have a cuppa and possibly make new friends. It was a wonderful time of chatting and getting to know each other a little better.

We meet again on Thursday 15th February. There'll be a cuppa and a chat for anyone feeling lonely, who is struggling or simply would enjoy some company. This is a safe space where people can just be themselves and meet new people. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might benefit from this outreach.

Food Bank

We will be holding a monthly donation for the Croí Mháire Foodbank in Blanchardstown. All donated items will be delivered to the food bank following the fourth Sunday of each month. We are requesting non-perishable food items, any items that are particularly needed will be highlighted in the church notice sheet.

Monthly donations for the Foodbank will be delivered following the 4th Sunday of each month but can be donated at any time during the month.

Confirmation 2024

Confirmation classes continue in February ahead of the Confirmation service which is to be held in St Brigid's on Sunday 28th April at 11.30 a.m. The classes in February will be on Sunday 11th and Sunday 25th at 6.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre.

We have 19 young people preparing for Confirmation this year so please keep them in your prayers and encourage them when you see them in church.



Play and Pray

Following on from the success of Tiny Tots, Rev Natasha is launching Play and Pray. The concept of the group is to teach children from seven years of age and under more about the Christian faith through fun and interactive games. If you would like more information about Play and Pray, please contact Rev Natasha.

Monthly Prayer Gathering

Our monthly Prayer Gathering will take place in St. Mary's Clonsilla on Monday 19th February 2024.

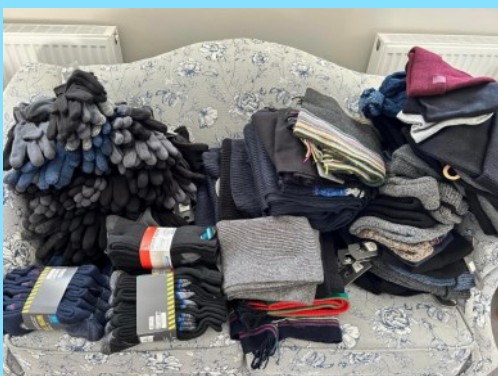
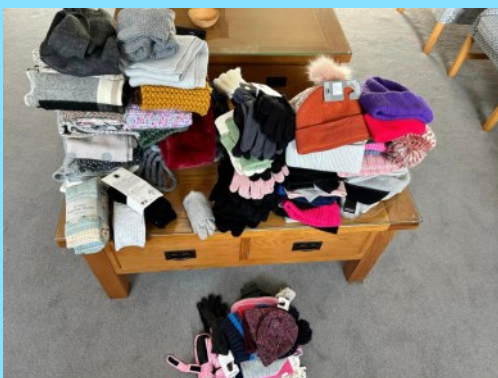
This will be an opportunity to come together as a parish to pray as we enter into a New Year. All are welcome.



Christmas Appeal

Thank you for an amazing response to our Christmas Appeal for hats, scarves and gloves to support two charities helping those who are homeless.

We will be shortly arranging to hand them over to the Mustard Seed and Lucan Homeless Charities.



New Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain

Congratulations to our own Rev. Colin who was commissioned as the new Diocesan Chaplain for Mothers' Union by Archbishop Jackson on St. Brigid's Day, Thursday 1st February, in Christ Church Cathedral.

He was joined by over 30 MU members and friends and is pictured with Rev. Canon Leonard Ruddock, outgoing Diocesan Chaplain, Ada Lawson, Diocesan President, and Archbishop Jackson following the service.



SAVE THE DATE



FOR THE

CMC Parish

BBQ



Saturday 22nd June 2024

More information to follow

WEDNESDAY CLUB

There were Christmas celebrations for the Wednesday Club with lunch at the Ely Wine Bar in Maynooth.

It was a great occasion with delicious food, chat and friendship.

Thanks to the committee for organising the lunch.

We missed those who were unable to join us because of illness and wish them a speedy recovery.

On Friday 9th February, when the snowdrops should be at their best, a trip to Altamont Gardens is being organised. The tour is arranged for 12 noon and people are encouraged to wrap up warm.

The cost is €3 per person.



Christmas Photo Gallery



Christmas Photo Gallery



You are warmly invited to Tiny Tots,
our gathering place for
all pre-school children and their parents/ carers



A place to meet
A place for fun
A place to grow
A place for you

Castleknock Parish Centre
Thursday's 10.00am – 11.30am During Term Time
Starting 14th September 2023
€2 to cover tea/ coffee